

Ameraucana Breeders Club
#2 Jan/Feb 1995 XV



DEALING WITH IGNORANCE

Dick Orr's informative letter in the last club newsletter brought back some memories when he detailed the loud, obnoxious behavior of an exhibitor at the Ohio National. For Dick and anyone else relatively new to breeding and exhibiting Ameraucanas it must be unsettling to have someone attempting to put down the breed in such an offensive manner and grandstanding for anyone who would listen. Unfortunately, this attitude and hostility by certain of those in this hobby is not new.

In the late 70's when Mike Gilbert and I were attempting to organize the club and standardize the breed along with Jerry Segler, Bernard Kellogg and others, we often ran onto some really bitter opposition. One fellow from a southern state wrote a series of scathing letters to Poultry Press accusing us among other things of being heathens attempting to thwart the will of God. These letters eventually became so hateful that the editor refused to continue to print them. Problems continued not only from the lunatic fringe however, but from an important APA official attempting to frustrate admittance of the breed by stalling, ignoring or otherwise delaying our efforts. The ABA on the other hand, was extremely helpful and we are grateful for their aid. The point that I want to make is that you can expect to run across this kind of blatant ignorance and sometimes outspoken prejudice virtually anywhere, but especially in areas of the country where the breed is as yet not well established or rare. Our new District Directors have their work cut out for them in this respect, but will in time earn acceptance as long as they continue to exhibit and promote the breed.

Anything new, especially in a traditional endeavor such as poultry breeding is bound to cause controversy, and as the "New kid on the block", breeders of Ameraucanas can count on picking up their share of flak. Remember, "Familiarity breeds contempt". If the breed had been developed in the 40's or 50's, few of these shade-tree orators would have little to say on the matter. In as much as this occurred well within the memory of most adults, it's grist for the mill and any fool with an axe to grind will take every opportunity to share his bias like a braying jackass.

So what's to be done? Grin and bear it or if you do not suffer fools lightly, confuse them with facts. But by all means continue to breed and exhibit your birds with pride and support the organization that supports you.

My thanks to those who voted and very best wishes to all for the New Year- this may be the year that you hatch that champion!

Don Cable
On the road

FROM THE OZARKS

As I write this we have bare ground again. After 14 1/2 inches of heavy, wet snow that stayed on until night before last, it's a treat to look out and see something besides white! Not to mention the chicken feed and the bird feed bills will be lower. As heavy and wet as it was there were still county roads drifted in 5 days later. This started at 4 o'clock Wed. afternoon and lasted until about noon on Thursday. We managed to dig out about 3:30 Thurs P.M. They called off work both Thursday & Friday, so I took the opportunity to work on income tax stuff.

So far this month, we've had thunderstorms, ice, thunder-snow and snow and not much sunshine!

The chickens were shut in for a week. When we let them out it was funny to watch the reactions. The "old-timers" just followed the paths - the young ones went everywhere - mostly trying to fly to keep from walking in it.

I lost my best chicken buddy in December. Roger Voter passed away in his sleep. We are going to try to keep the Dominique Club going and to finish the book which has been in the planning stage for years. The Voters were instrumental in bringing the Dominiques back from the edge of extinction to a major competitor in the shows, especially the large fowl back East. They will be sorely missed.

I am working full time so don't have much time for anything.

My best to all.

Think SPRING!!!
Mary Lou Phelps, Cent DD
1/29/95

New members, changes in addresses and phone numbers or anything else you should know!

Michelle Adkins - 632 Hiwassee Rd., Madisonville, TN 37354

"Last spring I bought some "Araucana" chicks. I became very amused at the peculiar personalities of these birds, altho all of them turned out to be cockerels. I have a feeling what I'm dealing with is what the standard refers to as Ameraucanas. I really haven't seen many illustrations of these birds, but I would like to join you club to see what I can find out."

Stewart & Melissa Cleveland - 2337 Woodland Way, Dewy Rose, GA 30634

Has Wheaten bantams as well as Black Japanese and Black OE bantams. Will sell started stock and adult birds...will ship same. or deliver to SE shows.

Paul F. Kroll - Harmony Hill Farm, 4325 Two Rod Road, East Aurora, NY 14052

Paul is a licensed poultry judge as well as an African violet judge. He raises champion Japanese bantams and violets. (I could say a lot more about this man but won't except to say he has been very supportive of the Ameraucana breed and club.

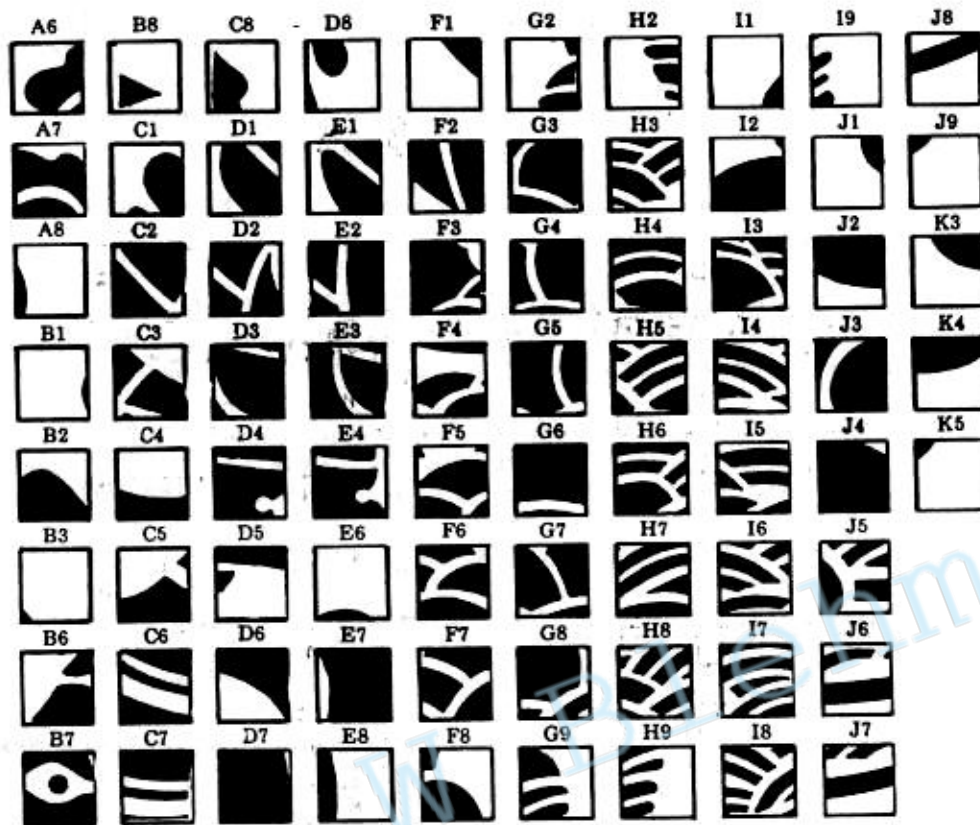
Change in Mary Lou Phelps address: 3997 N. Farm Rd. 143, Springfield, MO 65803

Please note the change in my phone number: 1-406-452-6171 (This is a 24 hour #) JF

PICTURE THIS

You do not need any special art training to produce a picture in the empty grid. Use the letter-number guide above each square and carefully draw what is shown into the corresponding square in the grid.

Solution on page 332



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AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 127, AUGUSTA, NJ 07822

Dear Advertiser,

Attached is a copy of the ad which was in the 1994 yearbook. Please make any additions and/or corrections to the ad and return at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for advertising in the ABA yearbook.

The ABA annual yearbook is sent to every member (except associate members).

A special thank you to all the secretaries who gather ads for club pages. This is an excellent way to advertise your club, your show, and keep members up to date on when and where the poultry shows are.

Attached is the rate schedule for the 1995 yearbook. The front inside cover and the back inside and back outside cover are already sold.

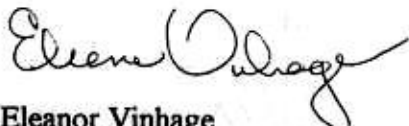
The ABA yearbook contains a complete breed and variety index which makes it very easy to locate breeders in your area who have what you may be looking for.

The deadline for ads is **March 15, 1995**. No advertisements will be accepted without full payment.

Any articles for the year book will be greatly appreciated. Think about submitting a article for the 1995 book.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Eleanor Vinhage
Secretary

Club page ad - 12⁰⁰ each individual



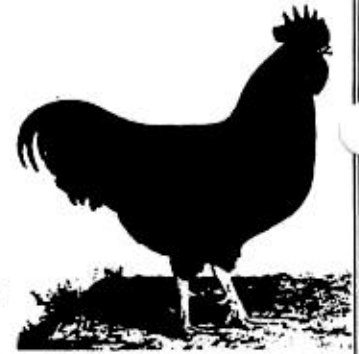
Adrian J. Rademacher

A.P.A. Master Exhibitor #158

Specializing in Std. S.C. Black Minorcas, S.C. & R.C. Rhode
Island Reds, Buff Wyandottes, and White Wyandotte Bantams.

Chicks available February - May 1995.

9185 County Road 10 East Waconia, Minnesota 55387
612-442-4031



I am writing to you concerning **Your Club's Meets for 1995**. We, the Minnesota State Poultry Association would like you to consider this letter as our **official bid** for your **National, District, State or Special Meet**.

Our show dates for **1995** will be **October 28 and 29** with entries being brought in on Friday, **October 21**. The show will be held at the fairgrounds in **Hutchinson, Minnesota**, which is about 50 miles **West of the Twin Cities**.

We will offer for **National Meets**:

A minimum of **\$50.00** cash plus **two trophies** if 100 or more entries.

A minimum of **\$25.00** cash plus **two trophies** if 99 or less entries.

We will offer for **District, State or Special Meets**:

A minimum of **two trophies**.

The following is what our club offers in addition to the above:

Numerous trophies.

Over \$1,200.00 in cash specials (Class and breed awards plus displays).

Class ribbons through 4th place.

We generally get many awards, trophies, and cash specials from our membership for our show in addition to these offered by our club.

Please let me know of **Your Club's** decision as soon as possible. We put our catalog together in **late June and early July**. If I can answer any questions or be of assistance in any way, just call or write me. I will be more than happy to assist **Your Club** in any way and I am looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,


Adrian J. Rademacher
Secretary

**BROWN COUNTY
POULTRY AND PIGEON
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

TREVOR NAU

728 ~~N. STATE~~ ST. RR 2 Box 11
ST. JAMES, MN 56081
507-375-4716



BREEDING AND EXHIBITING IN BANTAMS
SC LT. BROWN, SC SILVER LEGHORNS
SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURGS
VORWERKS



Dear Mike,

This letter is probably way to late but
will send as our club finally acted on
hosting a bidding on Americana Club
National. Our club can offer 4 trophies
2 for Large Fowl + 2 for bantams plus
50.00 CASH to your club to distribute as
your club would like. Also available would
be our clubhouse for your club meetings and
all the room you need to display club
info.

Thanks for giving us a chance to bid on
considering our show as a possible host for
your National Meet. Fall Show Oct 7-8 1995

Sincerely
Trevor Nau

Spring Show
April 29th 1995

TREVOR HALL

1998
1999
2000

BROWN COUNTY
POULTRY AND PIGEON
ASSOCIATION, INC



1998
1999
2000



John W Blehm

John W Blehm

John W Blehm

Have your chickens had their vitamin B today?

Deficiency symptoms can be mistaken for diseases.

by Jeanette Frank
Great Falls, Montana

Right after the fair in August, 1980, I opened my chicken coop door one morning to let the chickens out to range and found one of my new Naked Neck pullets with her head twisted under her. My immediate reaction was . . . "Oh! No! She's dead!"

She wasn't!! I put her in a cage and gave her a drink of water. Since it was a weekend and I was cleaning the chicken coop, I was close by and I made a point of picking her up often and stroking her long velvety-soft neck into the correct position and giving her a drink of water. That night I put her in a separate building thinking she would be dead by morning.

This went on for two days and nights and, lo and behold, she seemed to be normal. On the fourth day I put her back with the rest of the pullets. I really felt proud of my accomplishment. I soon found I would never want to use her for a breeder. She had what is known as B-1 Syndrome.

About one month later I found one of my 16-week-old Belgian d'Anver pullets with the same twisted neck. My efforts to help were in vain. However, the loss of this particular pullet spurred me into some research.

A couple of weeks later my son's 18-week-old Cubalaya cockerel develop-

ed the same problem. After conferring with a local veterinary it was generally thought to be a virus of some sort. We tried massage and an injection of Terramycin. The cockerel continued to get worse. Nothing helped, and after 2½ days, he died.

I continued to read anything and everything I could that might explain what could be causing this strange malady of my poultry. I ruled out what is known as limberneck because the cases were isolated and all the chickens were fed the same food. Limberneck is caused by botulism, or food poisoning. I also ruled out Newcastle Disease because this would affect more than one bird in a two or three week time limit. And so far in a two month span only three birds had been affected . . . two in one building and one in another building. The only real clue I had was what is commonly called "wry neck." I had known about wry neck for quite some time. It is generally associated with Silkies and generally is a recessive but hereditary gene. The adults may not show any sign of wry neck but sooner (or later) the offspring will.

Wry neck is a slightly to badly twisted neck. The bird looks as if it has stood on its head to get a different look at the world. Looks very uncomfortable. And probably is!!

Two weeks after the Cubalaya died my son's blue tasselled rooster started looking at the world upside down. Needless to say, I was ready to destroy the whole flock of birds. However, I

proceeded stubbornly. In all my reading of books and magazines I thought I finally found the problem but it still didn't make sense since only a few birds had been affected. But I decided that lack of B-1 was the problem. I had read that lack of Vitamin B-1 was one of the major factors in "wry neck." Why only a few birds?? Same reason only some Silkies have wry neck . . . the recessive gene.

(I used to have nightmares of walking into my chicken house and having all my chickens looking cockeyed at me.) Well, I cried a little, gave the blue rooster a shot of Terramycin, cried some more, put the rooster into a cage with half a bale of straw and called another veterinarian and held my breath. How do you describe, via the telephone, an upside-down neck?

When the doctor called me back he confirmed what I thought and explained that it wasn't just Silkies that had the recessive B-1 syndrome gene. The doctor wasn't any more positive than I as to what would really help, but he was the first one who was willing to listen and try to help. What we decided to try was B-1 injections and B-1 vitamins.

It is now going on four months later and the rooster has only a slightly cocked head. Within eight hours after the initial injection he showed improvement. It has been a long slow project but it has been worth it to see him act like a normal rooster again.

Since the above incident I have talked to several veterinarians, including the State Vet, and all have concluded that it can be a recessive gene brought to the surface by a lack of vitamin B-1 . . . and it can affect any bird.

My son's rooster is still being treated with a vitamin B-1 tablet in his water once a week. I'll never use him for breeding but he doesn't care.

I also found another source for my commercial feed. Read the label. Does it say "thiamin?"

Editor's note: There's more to this story:

Jeannette originally wrote this (and sent it to *Backyard Poultry*) in early 1981. It wasn't printed, because several advisors were uncomfortable with the vitamin B-1 theory, and thought that limberneck or newcastle disease were more likely.

However, in the more than four years that passed since she changed feeds, Jeanette has not had any problems with her flock. What's more, she kept digging for more information... found it... and wasted no time in sharing it with us.

Dr. B.R. Cho, poultry pathologist at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Washington State University, confirmed that a chicken which loses its ability to stand or sit upright and topples to the ground with its head still retracted, may be suffering from the vitamin deficiency. Commercial poultry rations should be balanced, but look for vitamin B-1 (or thiamine) on the label. Alfalfa meal, wheat bran, and wheat middlings are sources of thiamine, or more expensive brewer's yeast could be used.

However, because the vitamin deficiency causes an extreme loss of appetite, supplementing the feed may not be adequate for birds already affected. In this case oral administration of the vitamin is necessary. The bird should respond in just a few hours.

Dr. Cho added that an adult chicken can show signs of the vitamin deficiency after about three weeks on an inadequate diet, but young chicks will be affected in less than two weeks. The birds lose their appetites, lose weight, have ruffled feathers and leg weakness and an unsteady gait.

MONTANA/LEGISLATURE

Senate debates wet chickens

HELENA (AP) — Are you buying chicken and paying extra for water?

The Senate on Thursday was not persuaded by claims that Montana consumers are being cheated because too much water is added to prepackaged chickens sold in supermarkets.

Senators voted 24-22 to reject a bill the House passed earlier, that would authorize the state Health Department to regulate the sale and the labeling of chicken or turkey that is packaged with ex-

cessive water or ice.

Sen. Greg Jergeson, D-Chinook, who supported the bill, said unscrupulous poultry packers were duping consumers by adding too much water.

"They're essentially charging \$1 a pound for water," he said. "Consumers ought to be protected from buying water when they think they're buying nutrition."

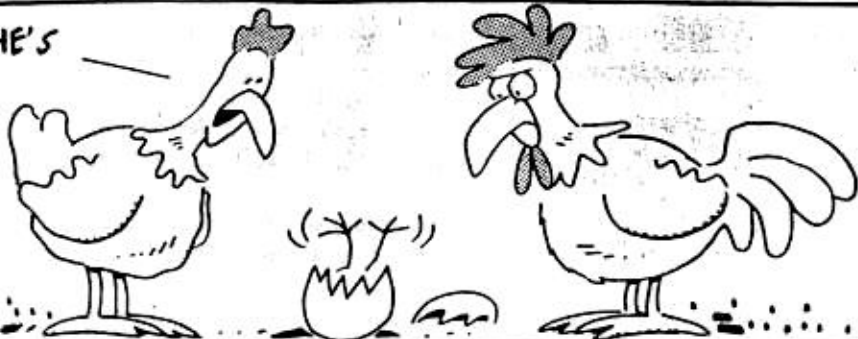
Supporters of House Bill 674 — which was sponsored by cattle rancher John Cobb of Augusta — said the practice is harmful to

Montana's meat industry, because beef producers are at a disadvantage when their poultry competitors can essentially sell water.

"We don't add water to beef in this state, but they do add water to chickens," said Sen. Gary Aklestad, R-Galata.

Sen. Bill Farrell, R-Missoula, who opposed the bill, said virtually all the chicken sold in Montana comes from out of state, and poultry suppliers would simply stop selling here if Montana adopted burdensome rules that other states don't have.

WELL, SO FAR HE'S
TAKING AFTER
YOUR SIDE
OF THE
FAMILY.



FROM HERE AND THERE

Dear Jeannette, Three things:

1/25/95

First, I would like to learn more about the different colors of Ameraucanas. Any information would be appreciated or books to buy. I have black and white striped ones (3) and one orange and gray one. Have no idea s to variety or if they are crosses.

Second, as a 4-H group we have showed this year. I make the 4-Hers leave the aisle while it is being judged. I notice a lot of adults stand right near the cages and the judge has to excuse himself to move from cage to cage. Couldn't aisles be roped off so the judge wouldn't have that problem? (ED note: it is up to the show super and the clerk to keep the judging area clear for the judge. You can always ask someone in the host club to clear the aisle. I know that some shows are real strict with tha rule of staying out of the judging area and others don't seem to see the problem.)

Third, when ~~the~~ kids put their tickets in the raffles they get discouraged. One person may win 4 or 5 items. At our 4-H functions after one win the family declines and allows another ticket to be drawn, so more families win. (ED note: Not every one is as willing to be charitable as your 4-H group. I do like your ruling and agree it should be a rule that only one win per family or individual.)

Alice Lee
131 Howland Hill RD
Berkshire, NY 13736

I would love to see more articles on developing/improving color in Brown Reds, Silvers, Buffs. It would also be nice to see photos B/W of other's Ameraucanas. Since there are no other breeders around here I don't really have a reference to compare with, other than the two photos in the ABA standard. I realize that may be a problem with printing but it was just a thought. Thanks.

Lee A. Lindsey
466 County Rd 1640
Cullman, AL 35055

Dear Jeannette

1/8/95

We had a real mild December but more like winter here in January.

New year's Day had a call from our foster son from Moscow, Russia. They will be back to Denver, CO by the end of 1995. They don't care for it as much as when they were there several years ago.

Haven't heard from Randal Buske for awhile. He sold his home in Reeseville and moved back to his parents for awhile. Rented a barn in the area for his twenty cows and still has his job. Chcikens were the first to be moved to his folks. He is a busy fellow.

No chicks hatched yet but tried..no fertile eggs. I'm down to only 17 bantams and in only two colors. Would like to retire from them in a year and move into a senior citizen apartments. Too much to do around this old place for a 75-year-old.

Thanks for the pictures and I'll update the bulletin board with them.

Your friend
Bernard Kellogg

Dear Jeannette,

Allison and I have reluctantly narrowed our breeding to Blacks and Whites. We also have several splash hens that we are reluctant to cull because they are so very "Ameraucana" with blue legs and full muffs and beards. I also have a vew Wheatens left but I don't what to do with them. They are sweethearts and good layers and Allison doesn't want to cull them. Maybe I can convince her if we meet someone at a show who would like to breed them.

We are all set for winter: the hens are in their coops all together and the males are in their individual "apartments". Before we know, we'll be breeding.

Suzanne Morgan/Allison Morgan

FROM HERE AND THERE

Jeannette

I thought I would drop you a note and say "Merry Christmas. The chickens are doing fine and I have solved most of the predator problem. Still lose a pigeon or chicken in the daytime to red-tailed hawks and a duck or guinea to horned owls at night. Since they are protected I have learned to live with the loss. I have been letting some of the chickens have free range. Risky, but I do enjoy having them out. I have some black and some buff Ameraucanas that were late hatch. They have free range and are looking good. I see in the APA Yearbook about chamois Sebrights or white laced buff. I have a few part Sebrights that are buff and a cock and two pullets that went from buff to white laced buff. I love silver laced Sebrights but Sebrights are the worst for dying. I have decided to merge the bantam whites with the blue blacks. I have had no white cock two breeding seasons and hope some will come out of the blue black next year. If they do not come back from recessive genes I will drop them. I have decided that a remake of the silver bantam with the help of John Blehm is my last major remake project on the Ameraucana. Any varieties that have not become popular may just have to be dropped. Lack of replacement breeders in case of unexpected loss is the main problem. It is too much time and expense to cross out of the breed and bring the color back. I started this letter before the bulletin arrived and im just getting back to it now. Enclosed is a check of dues.

Jerry Segler

Jeannette,

1/28/95

I guess I'm just not very good at answering my mail. I was sitting here paying bills and your letter was there so here goes.

I better not take out an ad for the year book. I would like to but I'm into too many things plus I'm still working. I plan to retire in Oct - hope that will give me more time to do the things i want and enjoy.

You ask about Champion ribbons - well I couldn't believe what happenen at the Minn show. Mike Gilbert was there with his white cockereal which took the AOLF Champ at the Ill show so I was satisfied with 2nd or 3rd or what ever. Sure wish I could have Mike's cockerel in my breeding pen.

But I was lucky at the Minn show, I took as follows: Large Fowl
AOLF Champ - White Ameraucana pullet; AOLF Res. Champ - Black Ameraucana pullet;
AOLF Champ - Black Ameraucana trio.

Hope the MT winter is treating you okay.

Sincerely,

Arne Schmidt

Keep the change!



REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

So far 1995 promises many changes in my small corner of the world...how about you?

I realize I am way behind in club correspondence - with all the moving, packing and shuffling I haven't had time to answer letters, etc. Please be patient - by April life should be settling down. This, by the way, will be the last newsletter from this office. We have been at this location for 16½ years.

Thank you to all who have sent in their 1995 membership dues. For those who have not.. this will be your last reminder. If there is a red check mark here _____ this will be your last newsletter.

Several of you responded to the APA Yearbook info sent out earlier this year. Thank you. Now in this issue is the ad for the ABA Yearbook. Read it carefully. If you want a club page ad I need your money and ad in my hot little hands no later than Mar. 1, 1995 to meet their deadline.

I did receive several comments regarding this newsletter. Even tho so many stated that they really look forward to the safe delivery of the newsletter in the brightly colored envelope I will discontinue using them **IF** it saves the club postage. Reducing the size of the printing really was not a favorable solution and even tho some favored going back to the four times a year idea with large volumn newsletters I would prefer to stay with the six times a year if I have the material to make it worthwhile and I can manage to keep up with the work involved. I do appreciate the offers to do the typing and label making but I really hesitate to shuffle the material around to so many areas...incomplete. I will say that when I can not do it alone I will holler for help. Okay? I still need the articles and input from you...the members.

I reprinted my article on the B₇ syndrome. One of our members was having problems with "wry neck". The B₇ syndrome is not always the answer, however. My copy of the Chicken Health Handbook is still out on loan to a 4-Her so I could not see what was recommended.

The puzzle is for fun. Everyone needs some fun in their life...right?

We have some new members --names found elsewhere. A change of address for Mary Lou and a phone number change for me...found elsewhere.

I have heard some good things about our club's new Eastern DD...Richard Orr. He is doing a good job of letting the members in his district know he is there and he has been seen at several shows along the eastern coast. Keep up the good work, Richard.

Had a question regarding why judges don't really pay attention to the leg color in some breeds and really crack down on others. Most of the time it is a lack of knowing what is required. As a former breeder, /exhibitor and as a judge I'd like to state my thoughts - (oh, oh you say..here she goes getting up on her soapbox.) Not really..I just feel that every breed has standards set for both the breed and variety. IF a bird does not meet those standards it should not place and since leg color is a major factor per breed/variety then it should be a disqualification. It is up to the judge to know what to look for in both the breed and variety..if it is something they/he/she is not familiar with then pride should not let them fail to reach for the standard. End of lecture...for now.

And with that I will end my article. I have files waiting to be sorted and packed for moving. Hope your incubators are working properly and all your eggs are fertile with a future champion. And hope the treatments are working out okay without the side effects.

Jannette

P.S. Anyone out there have any info on raising ostriches? I have a friend who thinks he wants to get into the business. I keep trying to tell him he really doesn't. Thanks.

